

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PIERRE HARMEL'S VIEWS ON THE EC AND US-EUROPEAN
RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. BELGIAN SENATE PRESIDENT AND FORMER FOREIGN
MINISTER PIERRE HARMEL, IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE
"INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE" OF APRIL 1, DEPLORES DEVELOPMENTS
OVER PAST FEW MONTHS AND CALLS ON FRG AND FRANCE, AS EC
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS, TO TAKE THE LEAD IN REBUILDING THE EC AND
STRENGTHENING US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. HARMEL RECOMMENDS REGULAR
MEETINGS BETWEEN US SECRETARY OF STATE AND EC LEADERS. FOLLOWING
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ARE KEY QUOTES OR PARAPHRASED PORTIONS OF HARMEL'S ARTICLE

(TEXT POUCHED TO EUR/WE). END SUMMARY.

2. THE PAST TEN YEARS HAVE BEEN A TIME OF PROGRESS IN THREE AREAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO WESTERN EUROPE: THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE, RELATIONS WITH NORTH AMERICA AND RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE.

3. THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1974, HOWEVER, HAVE BY COMPARISON BEEN "MOST NEGATIVE AND MOST DESTRUCTIVE". THE EC HAS MET ONE DEFEAT AFTER ANOTHER (ON REGIONAL POLICY, FARM PRICES, OIL SUPPLIES, MONETARY AGREEMENT). THERE HAVE BEEN "FIVE GOVERNMENT CRISES IN THREE MONTHS IN THE NINE COUNTRIES". DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC-NINE HAVE REACHED A STAGE OF PUBLIC QUARRELS, AND THE EC-NINE HAVE REACHED A STAGE OF PUBLIC QUARRELS, AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATO WILL TAKE PLACE UNDER "DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS". CONSEQUENTLY, WESTERN COHESION IS THREATENED JUST AT THE TIME WHEN IT IS SO BADLY NEEDED TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE WARSAW PACT, WHICH HAS INCREASED ITS MILITARY STRENGTH.

4. THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS MUST BE TAKEN BY THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AND ITS FIRST PROJECT MUST BE ECONOMIC UNION, "COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF THE ENERGY SITUATION".

5. "THE NINE COUNTRIES TOGETHER MUST OVERCOME AND CORRECT BY A SUITABLE PROGRAM THE SUPPLY WEAKNESSES WHICH THEY HAVE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP. AN ARAB-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE MAY BE USEFUL, BUT CAN ONLY DEAL WITH PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE CRISES. THE PROBLEM OF THE DIVERSIFICATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES IS ENORMOUS: EUROPE CANNOT SOLVE IT ALONE. BUT IN ORDER TO TAKE JOINT ACTION WITH OTHERS, EUROPE MUST FIRST DEFINE HER OWN POLICY IN THIS PRIMORDIAL MATTER."

6. THE INITIATIVE MUST COME FROM THE FRG AND FRANCE, IN THEIR CAPACITIES AS SUCCESSIVE PRESIDENTS OF THE EC COUNCIL DURING 1974. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES, TAKING THEIR EXAMPLE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER, SHOULD BECOME "PILGRIMS" TO EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN AN EFFORT TO RESTART COMMUNITY MACHINERY.

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7. "AS TO THE UNITED STATES, ONLY A STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY CAN REOPEN A FRUITFUL DIALOGUE AND SOLVE THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THEM." WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO HAVE A SITUATION IN WHICH US AND WESTERN EUROPEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEET REGULARLY WITH SOVIET LEADERS, WHILE SIMILAR MEETINGS BETWEEN THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE RAISE PROBLEMS. MOREOVER, IF SUCH MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AND RESULT IN NO MORE THAN COMMUNIQUE OF THE

SORT ISSUED FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH SOVIETS, "I THINK ONE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED IN SPEAKING OF A SECOND PRAGUE SPRING".

8. THE SYSTEM ONCE SUGGESTED BY FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO THE EC ROBERT SCHAEZEL IS RECOMMENDED: AS US DELEGATION LEAD BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD MEET TWICE A YEAR WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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